Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, In South Dakota, thousands of patients, their families, medical professionals, researchers, educators, social workers, and others will join in this observance of Rare Disease Day; and,

Whereas, Many rare diseases are serious or even life-threatening, and most rare diseases have no treatment; and,

Whereas, About half of the people affected by rare diseases in the United States are children since many rare diseases are genetic, and when there is a delay in diagnosis of a rare genetic disorder, siblings may be born with the same condition; and,

Whereas, People with rare diseases face many challenges: difficulty in obtaining a timely, accurate diagnosis; limited treatment options; difficulty in finding physicians or treatment centers; expensive treatments; reimbursement issues with private insurance, Medicare, and Medicaid; and a sense of isolation and hopelessness; and,

Whereas, Rare disorders affect the entire family of a patient, and caregivers endure ongoing stress and isolation while managing the medical and financial issues that arise; and,

Whereas, Millions of people around the world will observe the Second Annual Rare Disease Day on February 28, 2009, to raise awareness of these diseases and the special challenges encountered by those affected:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the state of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim February 28, 2009, as

RARE DISEASE DAY

in South Dakota.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the state of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Thirteenth Day of February in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Nine.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State